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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/771,963	02/04/2004	Ryan L. Roach	23455/P-6223	3837

27784 7590 12/23/2004

LAW OFFICE OF LAWRENCE E. LAUBSCHER, JR.  
1160 SPA ROAD, SUITE 2B  
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403

EXAMINER
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BLAU, STEPHEN LUTHER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3711

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/771,963

Applicant(s)

ROACH ET AL

Examiner

Stephen L. Blau

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The argument that the specification discloses the combinations as claimed in claim 17 is agreed with and as such the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is removed.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 11-13 and 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaw (5,423,535) in view of Katayam and Official Notice.

Shaw (5,423,535) discloses a set of clubs having a striking face area containing a recess, an insert secured within said recess, an outer surface of an insert being substantially flush with a non-recessed portion of a face area (Figs. 11, 40), a density of an insert increasing with a set from long irons to short irons (Col. 3, Lns. 32-35), an insert having a thickness increasing from a sole to a top (Fig. 34), an insert having a

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thickness increasing from a top to a sole (Fig. 36), and modifying the center of gravity in a vertical direction by adjusting the thickness of a face insert in a vertical direction (Col. 4, Lns. 1-18).

Shaw (5,362,047) lacks a thickness of an insert decreasing from long irons to short irons.

Katayama discloses a mass on a back of a face (36) moved downward in a vertical direction as loft increases in order to move the center of gravity to be at the point of contact with a ball for a given head in a set (Col. 3, Lns. 18-32). In view of the patent of Katayama it would have been obvious to modify the head of Shaw to have a thickness of an insert decreasing from long irons to short irons in the form of decreasing a top thickness of an insert while increasing the bottom thickness of an insert in order to utilize an insert's thickness in changing the center of gravity to be lower for higher loft clubs in a set so the sweet spot is maintained behind the ball at contact.

Examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known to have a set of irons from long irons to short irons increasing in loft.


### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's argument that the examiner interpreted claim 17 incorrectly is agreed with. As such a new grounds of rejection have been made and this action is not made final.

**Conclusion**

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Blau whose telephone number is (571) 272-4406. The examiner is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. If the examiner is unavailable you can contact his supervisor Greg Vidovich whose telephone number is (571) 272-4415. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858. (TC 3700 Official Fax 703-872-9306)

slb/ 18 December 2004

  
**STEPHEN BLAU**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**